



ROBERT K. PAGANI  
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

## BOARD OF FINANCE

### BUDGET DELIBERATIONS MONDAY, MAY 23, 2005

TOWN OF ELLINGTON  
RECEIVED

MAY 25 2005

FIRST SELECTMAN'S  
OFFICE

RICHARD J. CLEARY  
ROBERT J. CLEMENTS  
VAUGHN E. GERBER  
MARK A. JOYSE  
BARRY C. PINTO

**Board of Finance Members Present:** Robert K. Pagani-Chairman, Richard J. Cleary, Robert J. Clements, Vaughn E. Gerber, Mark A. Joyse, Barry C. Pinto

**Others Present:** N. DiCorelto-Fin Officer, D. Milanovich-First Sel., R. Packman-Supt of Schools, D. Roberson-Chmn BOE, A. Littizzio, N. Way, P. Charter, M. Stupinski-Selectmen, M. Varney-Chief EVFD, G. Feldman, P. Hany-EVAC, D. Wright-CLFD, P. Michaud-Dir DPW, R. Tedford-Dir P&R, A. Lawrence-Fire Marshal, G. Daigle, S. Phillips-Dir Hall Mem Library, M. Blanchette-BOE,

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8:07 pm. Mr. Pagani stated that no one on this board wants to cut budgets any more but that the taxpayers have spoken. This last budget was defeated 3 to 1. The following reductions were outlined.

Finance Office \$3,000 part time help, Town Clerk \$4,000, New Equipment \$5,000, Grounds Maintenance \$5,000 Skinned Infield, Town Aid Road Winter \$50,000, HHW \$6,000, Cultural Arts \$14,500 this year's concerts are paid for, next year's funding cut, Interagency After-School Program \$10,000, CL Water Monitor \$4,000, Hall Memorial Library \$28,000 will close the library one day per week, Welfare \$5,000, Senior Ctr \$17,000 includes new floor. Capital non-recurring fund will sustain a cut of \$189,138. \$75,000 from landfill account will be taken. Unimproved roads will be cut by \$25,000, Overlay cut by \$38,038, DPW Roadside mower deleted for \$108,100, Public Park Upgrades cut by \$18,000. The revenues will change by \$168,500 consisting of the following: Building Dept additional revenue of \$60,000, Youth Services Activities \$4,000, close out ELFD Fire Apparatus Sinking fund \$135,000, Ambulance Fee Programs (\$21,000), CL Water Monitor (\$2,000) and Interagency After School Program (\$7,500).

The increase for general government is 6.4 %, capital increase will be 27.4%, and the Board of Education budget increase is 5.68% before tonight's reduction.

**MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEARY) TO REDUCE THE 05-06 BUDGET FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT REDUCTIONS AND REVENUES AS LISTED.**

Mr. Joyse asked about the large cuts to cultural arts and the Library. Mr. Pagani stated that he spoke to the department heads about the reductions. There was discussion regarding the plan of development funding. It was determined that it is needed for codification of the changes to be upheld legally. Mr. Joyse stated that he does not want to see the Cultural Arts budget deleted entirely. He wants to add back \$7,000 to cultural arts from the Planning and Zoning budget. Mr. Pagani did not feel conformable taking it from this account since the amount quoted from Planametrics is more than what will remain budgeted.

**MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEARY) TO ADD BACK \$7,000 TO ACCOUNT 550 CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION.**

There is still \$100 left in this account and they can solicit donations to do the concerts. Mr. Joyse feels this is an enjoyable item in town. Mr. Pagani agreed and does not like to cut any budgets, but the taxpayers have spoken.

**VOTE ON MOTION**

**AYES: JOYSE, CLEARY**

**NAYS: PAGANI, CLEMENTS, GERBER, PINTO**

Sue Phillips, Library Director stated that she was not consulted regarding the \$28,000 reduction to her budget. She also feels that she should have the option to choose where to make the cut, rather than receive a directive to close the library one day per week. She did not feel it was fair to cut personnel at the library and not anywhere else in Town. She also felt that the Library Board was in charge of how to spend their budget. Mr. Pagani stated that the Board of Finance is permitted to reduce specific line items in the general government budget. If a department head feels they can reduce other line items they should let the Board know. Mr. Clements stated that he would like to let her cut whatever line she would feel is prudent.

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO AMEND THE DIRECTION GIVEN TO THE LIBRARY ON THEIR CUT AND GIVE THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR THE DISCRETION TO MAKE THE CUT TO THE BUDGET AS SHE SEES FIT. PAGANI VOTED NAY**

**VOTE ON MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REDUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL REVENUES AS LISTED ABOVE. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, PAGANI VOTED AYE.**

Mr. Pagani then stated that he has learned that the Crystal Lake Fire Dept has been charging for their services. He feels that if this is true, the funds needs to be accounted for and audited as the Ambulance Corps account is currently being done. He directed the

Crystal Lake Fire Dept. to meet with the Finance Officer within the next 10 days with the particulars of the program and to set up an account. This does not include fund raising activities. He then asked Mr. Varney to look into the same program for the Center Fire Dept. Mr. Varney stated that an internal committee was appointed in April to look into this program.

Mr. Pagani then stated that he has heard a lot of criticism about the Board of Education's new hires for principals and asst. principals being paid as much if not more than the presently being paid. He feels this practice is not in the Town's best interest. It has not gone unnoticed by taxpayers.

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (GERBER) TO REDUCE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.**

Dale Roberson, Chairman of Board of Education stated that he feels that the negotiated salaries were done in the best interest of the taxpayers as they went to arbitration. The people hired are the best and most excellent people to provide the best educational program. They are looking for excellence in education. He stated that the \$1.1 million combined reductions are going to devastate the school system, devalue the excellence of the education programs as well as destroy the equity in the educational program. He asked that the Board of Finance grant mercy to the Board of Education.

Mr. Clements stated that he agrees with Mr. Roberson but there is no choice.

Dr. Packman asked that any increases in the educational cost sharing grants be given to the school system. Mr. DiCorleto stated that CCM has estimated it to be \$79,000. Mr. Clements stated that anything the State gives to the Town for education he would agree to give it to the Board of Education. Mr. Pagani stated that he is willing to go forward with the process to give the Board of Education any increases received from the State.

**VOTE ON MOTION TO REDUCE ACCOUNT 1200 BOE BY \$300,000.  
AYES: PINTO, CLEARY, PAGANI, CLEMENTS, GERBER, JOYSE.**

Chairman called a recess at 9:20 pm. Deliberations were reconvened at 9:45 pm.

The budget as it stands is a 2.1 mill increase, at 34.8 mills. 1.2 mills were cut tonight. If this budget does not pass, personnel and services will have to be cut.

**Approval of Fiscal Year Budget 2005-06**

**MOVED (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED THAT THE SUM OF MONEY RECOMMENDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-06 IS \$37,682,753. ALL**

EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANTS (ECS) ARE DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

TO RECOMMEND TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 9,133,165
REDEMPTION OF DEBT	3,191,111
CONTINGENCY FUND	125,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION	24,188,655
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND	<u>1,044,822</u>
	\$ 37,682,753

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED TO RECOMMEND TO A TOWN MEETING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,044,822 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-06 FOR THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND; SAID APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

UNIMPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT	75,000
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	101,760
ROAD OVERLAY	200,000
TOWN HALL OFFICE RENOVATIONS	25,000
REVALUATION	62,700
EVAC-REPLACEMENT AMBULANCE	160,000
EVFD-WATER SHUTTLE EQUIPMENT	11,500
BOE-HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS/ADA COMPLIANCE	143,862
BOE-CLS RENOVATION-WELLS	<u>265,000</u>
	\$1,044,822
LESS FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS	
STATE GRANT-CLS WELLS (55%)	145,750
STATE GRANT-LOCIP	99,695
AMBULANCE FEE PROGRAM	<u>160,000</u>
	405,445
NET COST TO TOWN	\$ 639,377

**Adjournment**

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:50 PM.

Submitted by Lori Smith  
Lori Smith, Clerk